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FIELD TRIP REPORT OF REGIONAL PUBLICATIONS OFFICER, CAIRO - [REDACTED]

September 22 - October 4, 1962

I. JORDAN - Jerusalem

A. Official Contacts:

NONE. Due to arrival in Jerusalem on Saturday, RPO was unable to contact anyone in Consulate.

B. Bookstores Visited:

Arab Bookshop, Dar al-Arabi, Universal Bookstore, Dar al Kutub, Jordan Distribution Agency Bookstore.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program:

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D. Comments:

1. Publishing in Jerusalem is almost nil. All available material comes from Lebanon or UAR. Several anti-Basir publications were found in practically all bookstores; all were published in Saudi-Arabia except for one which was published in Damascus. The latter publication has become famous throughout the whole Arab area since it has been frequently discussed by the Arabic press recently. It is entitled THE BLACK BOOK - a strong attack on Basir and the United States.

2. No Soviet, Soviet Bloc or Chinese publications were noted in Jerusalem.

3. An interesting incident took place while the Regional Publications Officer was at the Universal Bookstore which is owned by the publisher of "Falastin", Raja al 'Issa. Yusuf Hanna, editorial writer in the daily al-Difa' walked into the bookstore while the Regional Publications Officer was selecting a few publications. The manager immediately introduced him to the Regional Publications Officer. Yusuf Hanna turned his sharp eye on the various books which were scattered on the table and through which Regional Publications Officer was browsing. Several anti-Basir titles were visible. Yusuf Hanna turned towards the manager and said, seriously and excitedly "How can you sell such trash? Have you not read President Basir's reply

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to President Kennedy's letter? Haven't you been listening to the radio yesterday and today?" This took place on the following day of the publication of the two letters in the Egyptian daily "al-Ahram".

4. A current survey of the Jerusalem press is attached (enclosure 1).

## II. JORDAN - Amman

### A. Official Contacts:

Publications Officer Brooks Wrampelmeier and other Embassy officers.

### B. Bookstores Visited:

Dar Al-Kutub, Al Maktabah al 'Arabiyyah, Maktabat Jabal Tariq, Talal Bookstore, Istiqial Bookstore.

### C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program:

[REDACTED]

### D. Comments:

1. Absolutely nothing has been published commercially in Amman for the past year. Only a few government pamphlets were issued by the Ministry of Information and those have already been sent to the Department by Embassy Amman.

2. No Soviet Bloc or Chinese publications are available.

3. The Regional Publications Officer was informed that the Government of Jordan, that is, King Husayn, is very displeased with the present Jordanian press. It is said that the Government is expected very shortly to issue a decree doing away with most of the present serial publications and in their place certain others favorable to the regime will be set up.

4. An up-to-date survey of the Amman Press is attached (enclosure 2).

## III. LEBANON - Beirut

### A. Official Contacts:

Dr. Held and other U.S. Embassy Officers.

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B. Bookstores Visited:

All bookstores previously named in prior field reports by the Regional Publications Officer.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program:

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D. Comments:

1. The Regional Publications Officer decided on this trip to devote much time and effort visiting the various large publishing houses in Lebanon. He discovered again, as previously reported, that the Lebanese publishers are interested in making bigger profits and therefore resort to translating famous foreign works into Arabic rather than concentrating on creative works.

2. From the many publishing houses visited the following are the most outstanding in Lebanon:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>OWNER</u>
Dar al-'Ilm lil Malayin	Bahij 'Uthman
Al-Maktab at-Tijari	Zuhair Ba'albakki
Dar al-Yaqazah al-'Arabiyyah	Shafiq Hamdan
Al Maktabah al Ahliyyah	Hisham Jamal
Dar an-Nashr lil Jami'iyyin	'Abdullah Taba'
Dar at-Tuli'ah	(n.a.)

3. Although many Soviet and Sov-Bloc publications could be found in Lebanon, the Regional Publications Officer could find no Chinese Communist publications.

4. The RPO checked with the people responsible for dispatching material to the Department from Embassy Beirut and determined that everything is being sent up-to-date. Moreover, Dr. Held will do some voluntary procurement in the future.

IV. SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC - Damascus

A. Official Contacts:

Publications Officer Leslie Polk, DCM, Political Counselor, and other Embassy officers.

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B. Bookstores Visited:

Al-Atlas Bookstore, al-Yaqzah al 'Arabiyyah and many other bookstores and newstands.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program:

[REDACTED]

D. Comments:

1. Although the publications business seems to be more or less at a standstill, the picture seems to have been brighter on this trip than on the previous one. The Regional Publications Officer found that the second edition of the Military Dictionary, English-Arabic, has been published and several copies were purchased. This publication's first edition was French-Arabic, and it has been sent to the various end-users previously. The most featured publications at the present time in Damascus seem to be the anti-Nasir and anti-unity ones. Several copies of these, which include THE BLACK BOOK and THE BLACK REGISTER, were acquired and dispatched.

2. An up-to-date "Survey of the Press Report" has been prepared by Embassy Damascus, and are attached (enclosure 3).

3. Soviet, and Soviet Bloc publications are available in Damascus.

V. CYPRUS - NICOSIA

A. Official Contacts:

Publications Officer Edwin D. Ledbetter and other Embassy Officers.

B. Bookstores Visited:

All previously named bookstores on former visits to the island.

C. Names of Useful Contacts to PO Program:

Rustem Bookstore.

D. Comments:

1. Almost nothing has been published in Cyprus since the Regional Publications Officer's last visit here. As for Government publications, Mr. Ledbetter assured the RPO that these are being sent to the Department. Although this has been mentioned previously

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to the Regional Publications Officer, the owner of Rustem Bookstore again stated that within the next two to three weeks a **COMMERCIAL DIRECTORY AND WHO'S WHO IN CYPRUS** will be put out.

2. Regional Publications Officer was unable to note Soviet, Soviet Bloc or Chinese publications in Cyprus.

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